

The following message from his Excellency the Governor was submitted to the House :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,)
AUSTIN, April 23, 1873. }

Hon. M. D. K. Taylor, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas :

SIR: I return to the House of Representatives, where it originated, the joint resolution, entitled "Joint resolution authorizing the Comptroller to employ two additional clerks."

I think that the Legislature has been misinformed as to the management of the Comptroller's office, and as to the necessity there of this increased force.

While it may be proper enough that a liberal clerical force to carry on the work of the different offices of the government should be allowed, yet when it is apparent in the management of any one of those offices that the public does not get a fair share of service from the employés, or that incompetent employés are knowingly kept in position, I do not think that such management should be encouraged by additions made to an already unnecessary force of clerks.

The Comptroller's office for the years 1867 and 1868 had but six clerks. For 1870 his clerical force, at his request, was increased to seven. By the act of March 27, 1871, a pension clerk was added to his office, whose services in that respect were really unnecessary. Again, by act of May 19, 1871, four other clerks were added, making in all, up to this time, thirteen clerks, being nearly twice as many as were necessary in 1870, according to his own estimates then made.

I cannot imagine any increased business in that office that would warrant this constant increase of the force,

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and, if the office is properly conducted, I am sure increase is not wanted. The Comptroller requires of his force, during five days of the week, six hours daily attention to the public duties (including meals, probably about five hours of actual daily duty), and on Saturdays about three hours (from 9 A. M. to 12 M.), being about twenty-eight hours per week. He has insisted upon this practice, notwithstanding my objection, and my request to extend the daily service. Further than this, four of the clerks now employed by him, at salaries aggregating \$5600 per annum, are his sons or relatives, and, I may reasonably presume, have been put in office only because of such relationship, as I am informed that they are incompetent for the duties they are paid to perform. (On this point I refer the House to the evidence taken before the select committee of seven, appointed by the House of Representatives of the Twelfth Legislature to investigate the alleged misconduct of the present Comptroller.)

If the Comptroller would require a reasonable daily service from his clerks, and would replace by others those who are incompetent, I am satisfied that his present force would be amply sufficient to carry on the office, and, in fact, that the force might be reduced.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND J. DAVIS, Governor.

M. Booty moved that the message be referred to the special committee on the Comptroller's and Treasurer's offices.

Mr. Killough moved to refer it to the standing committee on the same subject, which motion carried.